

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 2-4, 6-12, 14-16, 18-24, and 27-34 are allowed. Claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by applicants' admitted art.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 2-4, 6-12, 14-16, 18-24, and 27-34.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Each of the above-noted claims is amended by the present response to clarify the language therein. Specifically, those claims now recite "cutting off only first and second corners of only respective first and second opposite corner square cells on a square grid to form non-regular hexagonal cells". That feature is believed to be clear.

With reference to Figure 1 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, non-regular hexagonal cells are formed, see for example the cells 1-1, 1-2, 1-3. Further, in each of those non-regular hexagonal cells only first and second opposite corners of only respective first and second opposite corner square cells are cut off. That is, only two of the four corner square cells have corners cut off therein.

In view of the claim amendments each of claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 is believed to be in full compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by applicants' admitted art, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

The outstanding rejection cites the admitted art in Figures 8B, 8C, 9A, and 12 as meeting the claim limitations. However, applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted claims distinguish over the disclosure in the admitted art.

More particularly, in the claims only first and second corner square cells have respective corners cut off, to form non-regular hexagonal cells. Further, those non-regular hexagonal cells are then combined into a single halftone cell. Such features in combination are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

In the admitted art of Figures 8B and 8C, only respective first and second opposite corner cells have respective corners cut off, to form non-regular hexagonal cells. However, as is clear from Figures 8B and 8C there is no further step of combining the non-regular hexagonal cells into one or a “combined single halftone cell”, as also required in the claims. Thus, the admitted art of Figures 8B and 8C is not believed to meet the claim limitations.

Similar, in Figure 9A only respective first and second opposite corner square cells have first and second corners thereof cut off, to form non-regular hexagonal cells. However, as is clear from Figure 9A there is no further step of combining plural of the non-regular hexagonal cells into one or a “combined single halftone cell”, as also required in the claims. Thus, the admitted art of Figure 9 is not believed to meet the claim limitations.

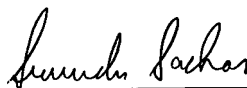
With respect to the admitted art of Figure 12, that admitted art does teach combining plural non-regular hexagonal cells into one combined single halftone cell. However, the admitted art of Figure 12 is deficient in that a total of four cells have their corners cut off. In contrast to the admitted art of Figure 12, in the above-noted claims only respective first and second opposite corner square cells have only first and second corners thereof cut off. Thus, in the claims only two corner cells have their corners cut off, whereas in the admitted art of Figure 12 four corner cells have their corners cut off. Thus, the admitted art of Figure 12 also does not meet the features of the above-noted claims.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, and 26 patentably distinguishes over the admitted art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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